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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 05 ROME 006133

SIPDIS

JOINT STAFF FOR JE/J4/J5  
STATE FOR PRM, EUR/WE, EUR/NE, SA/INS, IO/EDA  
USAID FOR A/AID, AA/DCHA, DCHA/OFDA, DCHA/FFF, AA/ANE,  
PPC/DP, PPC/DC  
USDA/AS OR U/S PENN  
GENEVA FOR RMA  
BRUSSELS FOR USEU  
USUN FOR MLUTZ  
NSC FOR JDWORKEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/23/2012

TAGS: [AORC](#) [EAGR](#) [EAID](#) [KUNR](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [WFP](#) [AORC](#)  
SUBJECT: WFP/IRAQ COUNTRY DIRECTOR SHARES THOUGHTS

REP: ROME 6072

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR TONY HALL FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

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SUMMARY  
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**¶1.** (S) CURRENT RATION CARD SYSTEM IS CUMBERSOME FOR THOSE WHO BECOME DISPLACED, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT INVOLVES MOVEMENT FROM THE SOUTH/CENTRAL TO THE NORTH. U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM SECRET

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(WFP) HAS OBTAINED PARTIAL DATABASE INFORMATION FOR THE SOUTH/CENTRAL REGIONS: NUMBER OF FAMILIES AND LIST OF FOOD AGENTS BROKEN DOWN BY SUB-DISTRICT. WFP HAS CONDUCTED A HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY SURVEY IN THE NORTH AND A MORE ANECDOTAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY IN SOUTH/CENTRAL. WFP COUNTRY DIRECTOR (CD) SAYS THAT THE MOST VULNERABLE IN IRAQ LIVE IN BASRA AND OTHERS ARE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE POOREST OF THE POOR'S, (30 TO 35 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION) CURRENT FOOD SUPPLY WOULD PROBABLY BE DEPLETED BY LATE-FEBRUARY. WFP CD FEELS VERY STRONGLY THAT KEEPING OR QUICKLY REVIVING THE CURRENT DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IS THE ONLY OPTION, BUT WFP HQ MAINTAINS ITS CURRENT THREE SCENARIOS. THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ'S (GOI) MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (MOT) PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE SUCCESS OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM AND KEEPING IT RUNNING IN SOME SHAPE OR FORM IS CRITICAL, SAYS WFP CD. IF MOT STAFF COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON TO RE-START THE SYSTEM UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP, WFP'S NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL STAFF NEEDS WOULD EXPONENTIALLY INCREASE. IN ANTICIPATION, WFP HAS ALREADY BEGUN TRAINING ITS NATIONAL STAFF IN THE BASICS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS AND REPORTING. MUST BE READY TO LOGISTICALLY ADDRESS MAJOR UPHEAVAL AT PORT UMM QASR AND ELSEWHERE IN THE COUNTRY. WFP ESTABLISHES GULF TASK FORCE, WITH WFP REGIONAL DIRECTOR KHALED ADLY AT THE HELM. END SUMMARY.

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BACKGROUND  
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**¶2.** (C) ON DECEMBER 20, SENIOR EMERGENCY COORDINATOR (SEC) DAVIS IN U.S. MISSION/ROME MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH TORBEN DUE SECRET

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(PLEASE PROTECT), WFP COUNTRY DIRECTOR IN IRAQ. HE WAS PASSING THROUGH WFP HEADQUARTERS (HQ) ON HIS WAY HOME TO DENMARK FOR THE HOLIDAYS. DAVIS MET ONE-ON-ONE WITH DUE, AND HE WAS QUITE CANDID AND FORTHCOMING. REF TEL PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IN IRAQ. DUE WAS ABLE TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS REGARDING THE CURRENT SYSTEM AND WFP'S ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AS WELL AS HIS CONCERN'S REGARDING CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND PREPARATIONS IN BAGHDAD. INFORMATION BELOW BUILDS ON WHAT WAS PROVIDED IN REF TEL.

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IMPORTANCE OF RATION CARD  
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**¶3.** (S) AS REPORTED IN REF TEL, EACH FAMILY RECEIVES A RATION CARD FOR FOOD. IF ONE MOVES, ONE MUST GET ONE'S NAME TAKEN OFF THE LIST FROM THE PREVIOUS NEIGHBORHOOD OR TOWN BEFORE IT CAN BE ADDED TO A NEW LIST. THE RATION CARD NOT ONLY SPECIFIES ONE'S ADDRESS AND TOWN, BUT ALSO SPECIFICIES WHICH FOOD/FLOUR AGENT(S) ONE MUST USE. AS THE GOI IS CURRENTLY

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|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
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| L-00   | NEA-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OES-00  | OIC-02  | PRS-00  |         |
| P-00   | SP-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00   | STR-00  | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |         |
| SA-00  | DRL-02 | G-00    | SAS-00  | /005W   |         |         |         |

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O 241053Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7484  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
USEU BRUSSELS 3026  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECRET

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USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC

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EXPELLING KURDS FROM THE KIRKUK AREA AND SENDING THEM NORTH, WFP IS INTERVENING WITH THE CENTRAL MOT (WHICH MAINTAINS THE DATABASE) TO HAVE THE DISPLACED KURDS' NAMES REMOVED FROM THE GOI FOOD DISTRIBUTION LISTS IN THE CENTRAL REGION SO THEY CAN BE ADDED TO WFP'S LISTS IN THE NORTH. DUE EXPLAINED THIS PROCESS CAN BE CUMBERSOME. DUE SAID THE RATION CARD IS ALL IMPORTANT IN IRAQ, RECEIVING A HIGHER VALUE THAN A PERSON'S IDENTITY CARD AND REINFORCED THAT THE CARD SERVES AS A GOVERNMENT CONTROL MECHANISM.

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WFP'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN SOUTH/CENTRAL

¶4. (C) IN SOUTH/CENTRAL IRAQ, WFP MAKES REGULAR VISITS TO THE WAREHOUSES--TRANSIT AND EXTENDED DELIVERY POINT (EDP) WAREHOUSES, OBSERVES ALL LOADING OF COMMODITIES, AND EXAMINES THE BOOKS OF THE FOOD AND FLOUR AGENTS. WFP HAS 10-15 NATIONAL STAFF IN EACH GOVERNORATE WHO DO THE BULK OF THIS WORK. DUE REPORTS THAT THE NATIONAL STAFF IS CONSTANTLY INTIMIDATED BY THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS. JUST RECENTLY, DUE HAD TO MEET WITH MOT TOP MANAGEMENT TO EXPLAIN WHY IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE U.N. TO VISIT THE WAREHOUSES, AS THE MOT WAS TRYING TO BLOCK SUCH VISITS. DUE CLARIFIED THAT NOT ALL FOOD GOES INITIALLY TO A TRANSIT WAREHOUSE, AS REPORTED IN REF TEL; SOME COMMODITIES MAY GO DIRECTLY TO THE EDP FROM THE ENTRY POINT INTO IRAQ.

¶5. (C) WFP STAFF ALSO CONDUCT POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING (PDM) IN THE SOUTH/CENTRAL REGIONS (AS THEY ALSO DO IN THE NORTH). THE QUESTIONNAIRE DEVELOPED FOR THE PDM WAS APPROVED BY THE GOI. WFP STAFF ARE ABLE TO MAKE IMPROMPTU PDM VISITS TO HOMES, BUT ARE ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY AN IRAQI ESCORT WHO IS SUPPOSED TO STAND SOME DISTANCE AWAY FROM THE WFP INTERVIEWER AND THE BENEFICIARIES, BUT IS ALWAYS WITHIN EAR SHOT, SO THE BENEFICIARIES ARE CAREFUL WHAT THEY REPORT. WFP HAS CONDUCTED SOME ONE MILLION PDM INTERVIEWS OVER THE YEARS.

¶6. (U) THE DECEMBER DISTRIBUTION (FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH), WHICH IS AGAIN FOR TWO MONTHS, BEGAN ON DECEMBER 6 AND ENDED DECEMBER 20. (NOTE: NOVEMBER DISTRIBUTION WAS FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY. END NOTE.) THE GOI TELLS THE FOOD AGENTS

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AND WFP ON WHICH DATE THE MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION IS TO BEGIN.

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DATABASES

¶7. (S) AS STATED IN REF TEL, WFP MAINTAINS THE DATABASE OF BENEFICIARIES IN THE NORTH AND THE GOI'S MOT MAINTAINS THE DATABASE FOR THE CENTRAL/SOUTH. THE SEC ASKED DUE IF WFP HAD ANY ACCESS TO THE MOT'S DATABASE. DUE RELAYED THAT IN PREPARATION FOR POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTIVITY, WFP HAD BEEN ATTEMPTING TO GET A COPY OF THE LISTS, BUT THUS FAR HAD NOT SUCCEEDED. WFP HAS, HOWEVER, BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN DATABASE INFORMATION BY SUB-DISTRICT, WHICH PROVIDES A LISTING OF THE NUMBERS OF FAMILIES UNDER EACH FOOD/FLOUR AGENT, AND LISTS THE FOOD/FLOUR AGENTS. IT DOES NOT/NOT CONTAIN ANY NAMES HOWEVER. A COPY OF THIS LIST HAS BEEN SENT TO WFP'S REGIONAL OFFICE IN CAIRO. (NOTE: AS WFP ALREADY REALIZES, IT WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE A COPY OF THE SOUTH/CENTRAL DATABASE FOR POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CURRENT SYSTEM. END NOTE.)

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|       | EAP-00 | EB-00   | EUR-00  | H-01    | TEDE-00 | INR-00  | IO-00   |
| L-00  | NEA-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OES-00  | OIC-02  | PRS-00  |         |
| P-00  | SP-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00   | STR-00  | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |         |
| SA-00 | DRL-02 | G-00    | SAS-00  | /005W   |         |         |         |

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O 241053Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7485  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
USEU BRUSSELS 3027  
USMISSION GENEVA

SECRET

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USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC

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PPC/DP, PPC/DC  
USDA/AS OR U/S PENN  
GENEVA FOR RMA  
BRUSSELS FOR USEU  
USUN FOR MLUTZ  
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VULNERABILITY  
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¶18. (C) WFP HAS CONDUCTED A HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY SURVEY COUNTRYWIDE, HOWEVER IN SOUTH/CENTRAL IT WAS DONE BY THE NATIONAL STAFF, GATHERING WHAT INFORMATION IT COULD ON A MORE ANECDOTAL BASIS. EVEN SO, THE SURVEY HAS PROVIDED WFP WITH SOME GOOD INFORMATION ABOUT VULNERABILITY. IN THE NORTH, THE SURVEY WAS MORE SOPHISTICATED AND WAS MODELED AFTER THE CHILDREN HOUSEHOLD FOOD ECONOMY METHODOLOGY, WHEREBY FAMILIES

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ARE DIVIDED INTO ONE OF FOUR INCOME GROUPS: RICH,  
MIDDLE-INCOME, POOR, AND VERY POOR.

¶19. (C) WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE GREATEST VULNERABILITY IN THE COUNTRY, DUE SAID THAT THOSE LIVING IN THE BASRA REGION IN THE SOUTH ARE THE POOREST IN THE COUNTRY AND VERY VULNERABLE, EVEN THOUGH IT IS AN OIL-RICH AREA. DUE SAID THAT OTHER THAN BASRA, THE VULNERABLE ARE SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. 70 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IN CENTRAL/SOUTH LIVE IN THE CITIES, BUT DUE DOES NOT FEEL THAT THE URBAN POPULATION IS NECESSARILY MORE VULNERABLE THAN SOME IN RURAL AREAS. SOME 30 TO 35 PERCENT OF IRAQIS MAKE UP THE POOREST OF THE POOR, SAYS DUE, AND THEY SELL PART OF THE MONTHLY RATION IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH THE 250 DINARS PER PERSON (EQUAL TO 0.12 USD) NEEDED TO PURCHASE THE NEXT MONTH'S RATION.

¶10. (C) DUE ALSO STATED THAT EVEN THOUGH BENEFICIARIES RECEIVED A TWO-MONTHS RATION IN NOVEMBER AND IN DECEMBER, WHICH IN THEORY WOULD PROVIDE FOOD UNTIL THE END OF MARCH, THE POOREST WOULD ONLY HAVE FOOD UP TO LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH IN A BEST-CASE SCENARIO. SOME WILL HAVE SOLD PART OF IT FOR OTHER NEEDED ITEMS OR CASH. IN ADDITION, THE PDM VISITS SHOW THAT THE RATION LASTS ABOUT 20-25 DAYS RATHER THAN A FULL MONTH. THE DECEMBER DISTRIBUTION WAS ALSO NOT COMPLETE, AS IT WAS MISSING PULSES (BEANS) AND MILK, TWO IMPORTANT SOURCES OF PROTEIN IN THE RATION.

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ONLY ONE SCENARIO SAYS HE  
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¶11. (S) THE IRAQ WFP COUNTRY OFFICE (CO) STRONGLY FEELS THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER SCENARIOS OTHER THAN REVIVING THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF FEEDING EVERYONE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. DUE AND HIS TEAM DO NOT FEEL IT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE VULNERABILITY OF 4.9 OR 9.6 MILLION PEOPLE OUT OF 25.8 MILLION, WHEN 60 PERCENT OR MORE ARE TOTALLY OR EXTREMELY DEPENDENT ON THE FOOD RATION. DUE SAID THIS WAS THE PRIMARY REASON HE CAME TO ROME: TO CONVINCE WFP UPPER MANAGEMENT OF THIS. "THE PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM HAS/HAS TO FUNCTION--THERE IS NO/NO OTHER OPTION," SAID DUE. "ENSURING THAT THE MOT REMAINS FUNCTIONAL IS A KEY/KEY PIECE OF THE EQUATION." THE MOT SERVES AS THE INTERNATIONAL PROCUREMENT AGENT FOR THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND ARRANGES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF COMMODITIES. IT ARRANGES FOR THE TRANSPORT AND MAINTAINS THE DATABASE OF BENEFICIARIES IN THE CENTRAL/SOUTH. IT ALSO MAINTAINS THE WAREHOUSES, FLOUR MILLS, AND SILOS, AND SERVES AS THE OVERALL PLANNING CENTER. WFP INTERFACES WITH THE MOT EVERY DAY.

¶12. (S) THE SEC ASKED SEVERAL TIMES IF PUSH CAME TO SHOVE, HOW WOULD WFP GO ABOUT FEEDING 4.9 OR 9.6 MILLION PEOPLE AS OUTLINED IN THE CURRENT CONTINGENCY PLANNING. DUE COULD NOT

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| L-00   | NEA-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OES-00  | OIC-02  | PRS-00  |         |
| P-00   | SP-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00   | STR-00  | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |         |
| SA-00  | DRL-02 | G-00    | SAS-00  | /005W   |         |         |         |

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O 241053Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7486  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//

COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
USEU BRUSSELS 3028  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

SECRET

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USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
WHITE HOUSE NSC WASHDC

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EVEN DISCUSS SUCH A SCENARIO AS HE FEELS SO TIED TO THE NEED TO KEEP THE CURRENT SYSTEM GOING OR REVIVING IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. (NOTE: DUE'S MEETING WITH WFP UPPER MANAGEMENT TOOK PLACE AFTER THE SEC'S MEETING ON LATE FRIDAY AFTERNOON. SHE HAS LEARNED THAT WFP HAS DECIDED TO MAINTAIN ITS THREE SCENARIOS FOR THE TIME-BEING, AND IF NEEDED WOULD COMPRESS THE TIMING OF ITS EMERGENCY OPERATION (EMOP), IF THE BENEFICIARY LEVELS AND TONNAGE REQUIREMENTS ROSE. END NOTE.)

¶13. (C) DUE PROPOSED THAT THE STATUS OF FOUR KEY ELEMENTS HAS TO BE DETERMINED IMMEDIATELY IN A POST-CONFLICT AREA: 1)

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HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY; 2) WHAT IS LEFT OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE IN EACH AREA; 3) THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES OF THE VARIOUS OFFICES OF THE MOT; 4) CURRENT STOCKS IN COUNTRY AND WHAT IS IN THE PIPELINE. (NOTE: DUE IS OF THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE OIL FOR FOOD (OFF) PROGRAM CURRENTLY HAS LET CONTRACTS FOR 4.5 TO 5 MILLION METRIC TONS (MT) FOOD THAT WOULD BE IN THE PIPELINE, RATHER THAN THE 8 MILLION MT THOUGHT BY WASHINGTON. END NOTE.)

¶14. (C) REGARDING POINT FOUR ABOVE, DUE SAID IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL GIVE WFP LEGAL OWNERSHIP OF THE OIL FOR IRAQ PROGRAM (OIP) FOOD CONTRACTS. THIS LEGALITY IS VITAL TO ENSURING THAT THERE IS ENOUGH FOOD IN THE PIPELINE TO FEED THE CURRENT NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES.

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STAFF PREPARATIONS  
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¶15. (C) WFP HAS ALREADY CONDUCTED A MASSIVE TRAINING OF ITS NATIONAL STAFF IN THE BASICS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND REPORTING IN PREPARATION FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO ASSUME SOME OR ALL OF THESE TASKS. FIVE NATIONAL STAFF RECENTLY ATTENDED WFP'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING COURSE HELD IN SWEDEN, AND 60 NATIONAL STAFF WILL SOON BE TRAINED IN ASSESSING HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY. LASTLY, WFP HUMAN RELATIONS IS DEVELOPING A TRAINING ENTITLED "JUST IN TIME" WHICH WILL BE READY BY JANUARY 17 AND MADE AVAILABLE TO WFP IRAQ NATIONAL STAFF. THIS TRAINING CONTAINS SEVERAL DIFFERENT MODULES PERTAINING TO WFP FIELD OPERATIONS.

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¶16. (C) DUE SAID THAT IF THE MOT STAFF COULD NOT CONTINUE THEIR CURRENT FUNCTIONS AND WFP HAD TO PLAY THOSE ROLES, WFP WOULD NEED APPROXIMATELY 2,600 ADDITIONAL NATIONAL STAFF AND 150 TO 200 INTERNATIONAL STAFF. (COMMENT. FINDING 150 TO 200 EXPERIENCED EMERGENCY WFP INTERNATIONAL STAFF, WHILE MAINTAINING ITS CURRENT WORLDWIDE OPERATIONS, WOULD BE A MAJOR CHALLENGE FOR WFP. END COMMENT.)

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GLOOMY THOUGHTS  
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¶17. (S) WHEN ASKED WHAT HE THOUGHT THE GOI MIGHT DO IF ATTACKED THAT WOULD INHIBIT WFP'S OPERATION, DUE SAID THAT SADDAM MIGHT BLOW UP PORT UMM QASR, AS WELL AS THE MAJOR BULK WHEAT STORAGE AND MILLING INSTALLATION ALSO LOCATED AT THE PORT. THE PORT MUST BE CLEANED DAILY DUE TO THE SAND/SILT THAT COLLECTS EACH DAY, SO THAT LARGE SHIPS CAN DOCK. ANY EXPLOSION WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR SHIPS TO DOCK AT THE PORT UNTIL NEW DREDGES ARRIVED TO RE-START THE DAILY DREDGING OPERATION. ALTERNATE PORTS WOULD BE ACABA, KUWAIT, OR

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| L-00   | NEA-00 | NSAE-00 | NSCE-00 | OES-00  | OIC-02  | PRS-00  |         |
| P-00   | SP-00  | SSO-00  | SS-00   | STR-00  | TRSE-00 | USIE-00 |         |
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O 241053Z DEC 02  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7487  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
AMEMBASSY BERN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//  
COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC  
JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
USEU BRUSSELS 3029  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USNATO  
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PPC/DP, PPC/DC  
USDA/AS OR U/S PENN  
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IRANIAN PORTS, SAYS DUE, BUT CHANGES WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE TO THE SHIPPING CONTRACTS AND THERE MAY BE COST IMPLICATIONS. THE GOI COULD ALSO HOLD UP ALL OIP FOOD COMMODITY CONTRACTS THAT ARE CURRENTLY IN PROCESS.

¶18. (S) DUE (PLEASE PROTECT) ALSO CONFIDED THAT A RUSSIAN DIPLOMAT HAD TOLD HIM THAT THE GOI HAS DUG DEEP HOLES NEXT TO ALL OIL WELLS WHERE IT ALREADY HAS PLANTED EXPLOSIVES.

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WFP TASK FORCE ESTABLISHED

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¶19. (C) ALSO AS A RESULT OF THE FRIDAY MEETING, WFP DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A GULF TASK FORCE WITH THE FRIDAY DISCUSSION SERVING AS THE FIRST MEETING. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, IS THE SECOND MEETING. THE TASK FORCE PLANS TO MEET ONCE A WEEK. MEMBERS INCLUDE THE WFP COUNTRY OFFICES IN THE REGION AND WFP HQ PERSONNEL, WITH KHALED ADLY, THE WFP REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN CAIRO SERVING AS THE TASK FORCE LEADER. WFP HAS ALSO DECIDED TO RUN ANY POTENTIAL GULF OPERATION FROM ROME, SO ADLY WILL TRANSFER TO ROME FROM HIS OFFICE IN CAIRO. HE MOVES HERE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS. (NOTE. DURING THE AFGHANISTAN OPERATION LAST YEAR, IT BECAME CLEAR THERE WERE TOO MANY LAYERS IN WFP'S SYSTEM WHEN IT COMES TO RUNNING MASSIVE OPERATIONS, WITH THE REGIONAL CLUSTERS AND REGIONAL OFFICES--THUS THE DECISION TO MOVE ADLY TO ROME FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE.  
END NOTE.)  
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